

REMARKS

Claims 12 and 14-19 are pending in the instant application. Claim 12 has been amended to remove the redundant term "independently". Each basis for rejection is separately addressed below.

Rejoinder

Applicants respectfully request that Claims 15-19, previously withdrawn as being directed to non-elected species, be rejoined herein. Claims 15-19 depend from and, thus, require all the limitations of Claim 12.

Claim objection

Claim 12 is objected to for redundantly using the term "independently". Claim 12 has been amended to remove the first instance of this term. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Obviousness-type double patenting

Claims 12 and 14 are provisionally rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over claim 18 of co-pending applications 10/865,245. Because this application is later filed than the present application and has not been allowed, once all other presently maintained rejections are overcome, this application should be passed to allowance and any terminal disclaimers or other appropriate actions should be made in the cited applications. See MPEP 804.B.1.

Claims 12 and 14 are also rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 7,262,286 in view of Zhao. Claims 12 and 14 are also rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 7,824,696. Without admitting that claims 12 and 14 are obvious over the cited claims of either patent, and solely for the sake of expediting prosecution, Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer over these patents.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at 207-571-9365, x-107.

Respectfully submitted,

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Furman Gregory Deptula
215 Main Street, Suite 101
Biddeford, ME 04005
Telephone: 207-571-9365

By: /Wayne A. Keown/
Wayne A. Keown
Registration No. 33,923